

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/848,417	MENDEL-HARTVIG ET AL.
	Examiner Bao-Thuy L. Nguyen	Art Unit 1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment dated 7/18/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3 and 5-13 which have been renumbered from 1-12 respectively.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Holly Kozlowski on September 28, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An assay device for determining an analyte in an aqueous sample comprising:

- (i) an elongate flow matrix, having an upstream end and a downstream end, allowing lateral transport of fluid therethrough by capillary action, wherein said matrix comprises a liquid application zone and downstream thereof, a detection zone having an immobilized capture agent capable of directly or indirectly binding to said analyte, the flow matrix further comprising a diffusively movable detection reagent,
- (ii) a separate wicking member located at the downstream end of the flow matrix and having an upstream end and downstream end,
- (iii) an indicator downstream of the detection zone for indicating when liquid applied in the liquid application zone has reached the indicator, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator substance or substance combination which is capable of exhibiting a visible colour change when hydrated by the aqueous sample, and wherein the indicator is arranged in contact with a top surface of the wicking member [~~at a variable position between the upstream and downstream ends of the wicking member, thereby permitting variation of the time elapsing from the application of liquid to the liquid application zone until the indicator substance or substance combination changes colour~~], and
- (iv) a housing enclosing the flow matrix and the wicking member, wherein the indicator is [included on an inner side of] located within the housing at a transparent or translucent portion of the housing.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator comprises a substance mixture attached to the wicking member ~~[or the inner side of the housing]~~ by tape.

Claim 8 (currently amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator comprises an indicator substance or substance combination on a support which in turn is included on the wicking member ~~[or an inner side of the housing]~~.

Claim 13 (new) The device according to claim 1, wherein the indicator is included on an inner side of the housing.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the instant claims define over the prior art of record because the prior art of record fails to disclose or make obvious a device where a separate wicking member carries an indicator or indicator substance that changes color when hydrated by a liquid sample.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bao-Thuy L. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-0824. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. -4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long V. Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Bao-Thuy L. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1641
9/28/05